UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/803,610	03/18/2004	S. Brandon Keller	200311762-1	5883

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EXAMINER
DINH, PAUL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2825	

DATE MAILED: 06/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

		Application No.	Applicant(s)
		10/803,610	KELLER ET AL.
Office Action Summary		Examiner	Art Unit
		Paul Dinh	2825

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>22 May 2006</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-11,26-34 and 39-47* is/are pending in the application.

　　4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-11,26-34 and 39-47* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *18 March 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

　　Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

　　Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

　　a)☐ All　b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

　　　1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

　　　2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

　　　3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

　　* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *3/18/04*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to the election filed on 5/22/06.

Claims 1-11, 26-34 and 39-47 are pending.

Specification

The blank spaces in paragraphs 0001 and 0033 of the specification must be filled/update with current information.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-11, 26-34 and 39-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 26, 39 and their dependencies are rejected because:

a.   "configuration data elements (CDE)" and "data source indicator (DSI)" are not clearly defined in claims 1, 26, 39.

b.   "configuration command" is unclear and incomplete; i.e.; configure what; command what.

c.   "applying the configuration command thereto" is unclear and incomplete; i.e.; applying the configuration command to what/where

Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form
The basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) The invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-11, 26-34 and 39-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the prior art of record Urata (US Pub. 2005/0010886)

(Claims 1 and similarly recited claims 26, 39)

A circuit analysis method/tool/medium for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources (fig 1-2, 4-5, 7-14) to configuration data elements (CDE) stored in a database (fig 1-2, 4-5, 7-14) comprising:

Comparing a data source indicator (DSI) of a configuration command with a DSI of a corresponding CDE; if the DSI of the configuration command takes precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE, applying the configuration command thereto (fig 5, 7-12, 14, insofar the limitation is understood); and

If the DSI of the configuration command does not take precedence over the DSI of the Corresponding CDE, disregarding the configuration command (fig 5, 7-12, 14, insofar the limitation is understood).

(Claims 2, 27, 40) wherein the DSI of the configuration command identifies a source of configuration data included in the configuration command (fig 1-14).

(Claims 3, 28, 41) wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is an external tool (fig 1-5, 7-10).

(Claims 4, 29, 42) wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a global configuration file (fig 2, 4-5, 7-10).

(Claims 5-6, 30-31, 43-44) wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a user configuration file (para 0107, 0109, 0112, 0205); wherein a DSI identifying a user configuration file as the source of the configuration command has precedence over all other DSIs (para 0107, 0109, 0112, 0205).

(Claims 7-9, 32-33, 45-46) wherein the configuration command includes a case identifier (fig 2-12, 14, 40, para 0239, 0248); determining whether the case identifier corresponds to a user-specified

analysis case (fig 2-12, 14, 40, para 0239, 0248); and if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case, applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE (fig 2-12, 14, 40, para 0239, 0248); if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case, disregarding the configuration command (fig 2-12, 14, 40, para 0239, 0248).

(Claims 10-11, 34, 47) determining whether the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix (fig 17, 35, 38-40); and if the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix, removing the corresponding configuration data element from the analysis; wherein the predetermined prefix is a negative expression (fig 17, 38-40)

2. Claims 1-11, 26-34 and 39-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the prior art of record Greidinger (USP 6449761)

(Claims 1 and similarly recited claims 26, 39)

A circuit analysis method/tool/medium for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources (fig 1-10, 14-15) to configuration data elements (CDE) stored in a database (fig 1-10, 14-15) comprising:

Comparing a data source indicator (DSI) of a configuration command with a DSI of a corresponding CDE; if the DSI of the configuration command takes precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE, applying the configuration command thereto (abstract, summary (col 3), fig 13, 14D; insofar the limitation is understood); and

If the DSI of the configuration command does not take precedence over the DSI of the Corresponding CDE, disregarding the configuration command (abstract, summary (col 3), fig 13, 14D; insofar the limitation is understood);

(Claims 2, 27, 40) wherein the DSI of the configuration command identifies a source of configuration data included in the configuration command (fig 1-6, 9-15).

(Claims 3, 28, 41) wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is an external tool (fig 1-3).

(Claims 4, 29, 42) wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a global configuration file (fig 1-2, 5-7, 9-10).

(Claims 5-6, 30-31, 43-44) wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a user configuration file (abstract, fig 3-5); wherein a DSI identifying a user configuration file as the source of the configuration command has precedence over all other DSIs (abstract, fig 3-5).

(Claims 7-9, 32-33, 45-46) wherein the configuration command includes a case identifier (abstract, fig 3-5, 13-15); determining whether the case identifier corresponds to a user-specified analysis case (abstract, fig 3-5, 13-15); and if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case, applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE (abstract, fig 3-5, 13-15); if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case, disregarding the configuration command (abstract, fig 3-5, 13-15).

(Claims 10-11, 34, 47) determining whether the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix (fig 5-6, 9); and if the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix, removing the corresponding configuration data element from the analysis; wherein the predetermined prefix is a negative expression (fig 5-6, 9)

3. Claims 1-11, 26-34 and 39-47   are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the prior art of record Sato (US Pub 20030014725)

(Claims 1 and similarly recited claims 26, 39)

A circuit analysis method/tool/medium for selectively applying configuration information from multiple sources (fig 3-7, 10-18) to configuration data elements (CDE) stored in a database (fig 1-7, 10-18) comprising:

Comparing a data source indicator (DSI) of a configuration command with a DSI of a corresponding CDE; if the DSI of the configuration command takes precedence over the DSI of the corresponding CDE, applying the configuration command thereto (para 0102-0103, fig 7; insofar the limitation is understood); and

If the DSI of the configuration command does not take precedence over the DSI of the Corresponding CDE, disregarding the configuration command para 0102-0103, fig 7; insofar the limitation is understood);

(Claims 2, 27, 40) wherein the DSI of the configuration command identifies a source of configuration data included in the configuration command (fig 3, 5-7, 12-14).

(Claims 3, 28, 41) wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is an external tool (fig 3, 5-8, 11-16, 18).

(Claims 4, 29, 42) wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a global configuration file (fig 5-7, 11-16).

(Claims 5-6, 30-31, 43-44) wherein the source identified by the DSI of the configuration command is a user configuration file (fig 3, 5, 13-14, 16); wherein a DSI identifying a user configuration file as the source of the configuration command has precedence over all other DSIs (fig 3, 5, 13-14, 16).

(Claims 7-9, 32-33, 45-46) wherein the configuration command includes a case identifier (fig 3, 5, 13-16); determining whether the case identifier corresponds to a user-specified analysis case (fig 3, 5, 13-16); and if the case identifier corresponds to the user-specified analysis case, applying the configuration command to the corresponding CDE (fig 3, 5, 13-16); if the case identifier does not correspond to the user-specified analysis case, disregarding the configuration command (fig 3, 5, 13-16).

(Claims 10-11, 34, 47) determining whether the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix (fig 6-9, 12-16, 29); and if the configuration command includes a predetermined prefix, removing the corresponding configuration data element from the analysis; wherein the predetermined prefix is a negative expression (fig 6-9, 12-16, 29)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-1890. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, Jack Chiang can be reached on 571-272-7483. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PAUL DINH
PRIMARY EXAMINER